Newsletter of the

BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May 1999

May 29: Y'All Come!

Y'All come to Buncom Days,
Got no rain, just a little haze.
Got a cowboy poet,
How about that!

Wagon rides and the Chicken Splat!
Critters to pet and a Western band,
About as much fun as you can stand.

So saddle up and come on down
To a big shindig in a little town --

Y'All Come!

Buncom Day '99 is on Saturday, May 29, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Buncom.

We'll have many of the activities everyone has enjoyed in past years, and maybe some surprises, too!

Mark your calendars and join us for fun, a barbecue put on again by the Upper Applegate Grange, and live music.

SCENES FROM PREVIOUS BUNCOM DAYS

Good times and family fun are waiting for everyone at the 6th annual Buncom Day on May 29. Here's a taste of Buncom Days past to whet your appetite for this year's celebration.

Join Us at the Annual Work Party May 22

As usual, we will be holding our annual Buncom Work Party on Saturday, May 22, to get Buncom ready for Buncom Day the following weekend. Join us at 10 a.m. with rakes, brooms and weed-eaters and we'll be finished by noon.

From Buncom's history:

Why Buncom Is Important

From "Buncom: Crossroads Station":

The little one-store-map-name stands today as a reminder of the past. Our need to preserve the three little buildings is rooted in our need to connect with those who went before us. The crossroads is symbolic of an intersecting of a past life with our present life. A crossroads is also defined as a "meeting place," and perhaps Buncom will continue to be a place where nighbors from every background meet. A place of common ground to gather and commune with each other and with the past.

What makes Buncom special? It was never more than miners' shacks and run-down buildings, and it has a funny name that seemingly has no meaning.

It's the people. Even though the buildings still stand, it is the people who make Buncom worth preserving, for those who lived before and for those who live there now.

Fred West, while talking about the Circle G Ranch, could really have been talking of the Buncom area as a whole:

"The real story behind Buncom lies with the people, and by the people. I mean all those who have lived there, worked there or just visited it. All of these people have somehow made a contribution to the area." He paused and went on: "And when you come right down to it, that's the most important of all."

Goldsby Artifacts, Postcards Given to Society

The Society's collection has been enriched by the donation of copies of tax receipts, photo and postcards of the Goldsby family, early Buncom residents.

The donation was made by Society member Fred Coffman, Central Point.

Bert and Joseph Goldsby were living at Buncom in the early part of the century.

Included is a tax receipt from Jackson County dated Sept. 30, 1901. It is for a tax payment of $14.30 from J. Goldsby for 1900 taxes on his property of 320 acres located downriver from Buncom

Also included is a copy of a photograph of Bert Goldsby and his wife, date unknown.

And finally, two postacards. One, postmarked 1909, is from Gussie Stone to Bert Goldsby, Buncom, Ore., and reads:

"Friend Bert, I received your card the other day. I am well. It is snowing here now. I ride my colt all the time. We have got to Mt. Wood tomorrow. So goodbye."

The other, dated 1913, is from Harry W. Burhans in San Anselmo, Cal., to Mr. Joseph Goldsby and family, Buncom, Oregon. It reads:

"With pleasant memories of the summer past. I much appreciate your help in the meetings we had in the grove."

NEW MCKEE BRIDGE SOCIETY TO HOLD EVENT JUNE 20

The brand new McKee Bridge Historical Society will hold its first public celebration on Father's Day, Sunday, June 20, starting at noon.

Among the events will be a barbecue, music, arts and crafts fair, horseshoes and cribbage tournaments, raffle and silent auction and tours of the bridge.

The celebration will be held at the bridge, located on Upper Applegate Road next to the McKee Bridge Restaurant and Store, about nine miles from Buncom.

Maybe She's the Oldest, but Surely the Most Distant

Our warmest wishes to Society member Iris Gowen, who celebrated her 90th birthday last month.

Iris may not be the oldest member of the Buncom Historical Society, but she certainly lives the farthest away. She lives in Salisbury, Massachusetts, and has been a society member since 1996.

Happy Birthday, Iris!

NEW OR RENEWING MEMBERS SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER

Denni & Doug Bateman, Jacksonville, OR
Anita Dewey, Central Point, OR
Bon & Laurie Dysart, Medford, OR
Jim & Ellen Knapp, Medford, OR
Hobie Marvin, Jacksonville, OR
Lyle & Karen McLaughlin, Central Point, OR
Jed & Celia Meese, Ashland, OR
Noel & Lovella Moore, Central Point, OR
James & Mary Smelcer, Ashland, OR
Dennis & Norma Smith, Jacksonville, OR
Marion & Gary Strong, Klamath Falls, OR
Erika Jostad & Dave Yemm, Jacksonville, OR
Leota Cantrall, Medford, Or
Sid & Karen DeBoer, Ashland, Or
Alexandria & Paul Enneking, Granite Bay, CA
Edward Cantrall, Alexandria, VA
Eugene & Lou Bevacqua, Otis Orchards, WA

A SPECIAL THANKS ...

Along with their dues, several of our members sent additional donations. We would like to offer our additional thanks for their generous support:

Doug & Denni Bateman
Eugene & Lou Bevacqua
Bob & Patti Bills
Iris Gowen
Noel & Lovella Moore
Mary Smelcer
Keith & Ione Waite

REMEMBER: BUNCOM DAY IS MAY 29

How to Foil Vandals at Buncom

We have been very fortunate that vandalism has been limited at Buncom. But once or twice a year someone gets rowdy and throws a rock or two through the window panes in the Post Office, usually leaving a few empty beer cans nearby.

But early on we learned that glass windows only breed major work to repair. So as the glass panes are broken, they are being replaced with plexiglas. That doesn't keep vandals from knocking them out, but they remain intact and take only a couple of minutes to re-install!

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The Buncom Historical Society is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving the buildings and history of the ghost town of Buncom, Oregon. Society address: 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530

On the Internet:
www.mind.net/buncom/

To join the Society: Send $5.00 with your name and address to the Society at 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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